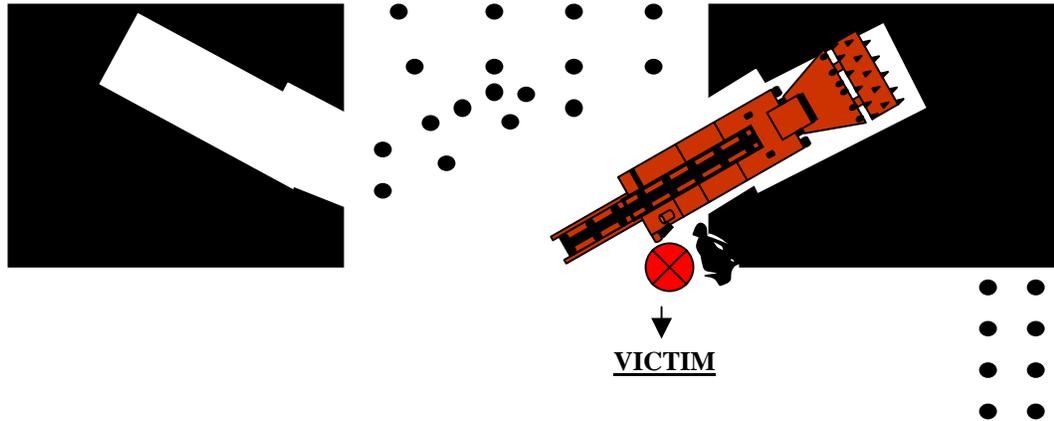




SAFETY ALERT BULLETIN

FALL OF RIB



On September 28, 2004, a continuous miner operator, age 49, was seriously injured in a fall of rib accident while second mining (pillaring) was being conducted. The miner operator, who had 30 years total mining experience, was knocked to the mine floor by a rib roll at the outby corner and sustained a compound fracture of his right lower leg. He underwent surgery at Johnson City Memorial Hospital and was released to go home October 4, 2004.

SAFETY KEYPOINTS:

- All workers should conduct thorough roof and coal rib examinations in their work areas before starting work and frequently thereafter as necessary to ensure safety.
- Remember that second mining naturally puts pressure on coal pillars and ribs may become loose and roll off.
- Take down or support loose rib or roof material.
- Remember that falling ribs can pitch out several feet into an entry.
- Travel should be limited between equipment and coal ribs in high coal seams.
- Coal ribs are most fragile and naturally weak at corners.

ACCIDENT REDUCTION PROGRAM